



# The Daughters of Mars: A Novel

By Thomas Keneally

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From the acclaimed author of *Schindler's List*, the new novel that has been called the best of Thomas Keneally's career, and hailed as "magnificent...stunning...full of suspense, searing particulars, and deep emotion" (*The Guardian*).

**In what is perhaps "the best novel of his career" (*The Spectator*), the acclaimed author of *Schindler's List* tells the unforgettable story of two sisters whose lives are transformed by the cataclysm of the first world war.**

IN 1915, Naomi and Sally Durance, two spirited Australian sisters, join the war effort as nurses, escaping the confines of their father's farm and carrying a guilty secret with them. Amid the carnage, the sisters' tenuous bond strengthens as they bravely face extreme danger and hostility—sometimes from their own side. There is great humor and compassion, too, and the inspiring example of the incredible women they serve alongside. In France, each meets an exceptional man, the kind for whom she might relinquish her newfound independence— if only they all survive.

At once vast in scope and extraordinarily intimate, *The Daughters of Mars* is a remarkable novel about suffering and transcendence, despair and triumph, and the simple acts of decency that make us human even in a world gone mad.

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## The Daughters of Mars: A Novel By Thomas Keneally Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Sally and Naomi Dorrance, grown sisters, aren't particularly close. Personality differences nudge them apart. Sally has stayed home on the family's farm in New South Wales and practices nursing close to home, while Naomi has fled to Sydney to nurse in wider, deeper waters. When their mother is verging on death, Naomi returns home, and the sisters perform an act that binds them in a peculiar way, as they now have to carry a guilty secret between them. Their world is opened drastically as they volunteer as nurses during WWI and are loaded onto a hospital ship treating Australian soldiers who have been wounded in the disastrous Battle of Gallipoli in Turkey. Their ship is torpedoed off the Greek islands, and the sisters' survival of a sinking ship is perhaps the most compelling—and longest—scene in this lengthy novel, the latest from the author of many distinguished historical novels, including *Schindler's List* (1982). The sisters end up nursing on the western front, and, in the end, it is their nursing experiences, their having to face countless horrors of loss of life and limb, that become the true meaning of their sisterly bond. Greatly detailed, alternately fast moving and slow, this story boasts authentic characters set in equally authentic locations. **HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY:** Active advertising and scheduling of the author for interviews make up a portion of the publisher's large publicity campaign for this book. --Brad Hooper

## Review

**"Poignant . . . masterly . . . epic . . .** [Keneally] has rescued forgotten heroines from obscurity and briefly placed them center stage." (*The New York Times Book Review*)

**"A burly, captivating** saga of Australian nurses on the front lines of World War I... **Inscribed with the stately, benign authority of an eminent tale-spinner.**" (*Wall Street Journal*)

**"Magnificent... a stunning performance,** full of suspense, searing particulars, and deep emotion.... The huge talents of Thomas Keneally are everywhere on display." (*The Guardian*)

"*The Daughters of Mars* is **the work of a master storyteller**, sharing a tale that is simultaneously sprawling and intimate." (*NPR*)

"[A] **poignant** novel." (*New York Times, Editor's Choice*)

"May be **the best novel of Keneally's career**... a book that aims for, and achieves, real grandeur." (*The Spectator, One of the Best Books of 2012*)

"An **epic, sweeping** book." (*LA Times*)

**"Extraordinarily moving... Keneally is a master of character** development and period detail.... Fans of *Downton Abbey* and *Gallipoli* alike will find much to admire in Keneally's **fast-moving, flawlessly written** pages." (*Kirkus Reviews, starred review*)

"Superbly exciting to read..... **An unmissable, unforgettable tribute.**" (*The Times (London)*)

"Not only is *The Daughters of Mars* one of the most ambitious novels in a career that stretches back to 1964, but it might even be *the* best... **The result is something few other authors would aim for, let alone achieve: genuine grandeur.**" (*The Telegraph*)

“A big and brutal book, a new prism through which to think about World War

I...**brehtaking...magnificent and almost magical**. There are moments of joy, of pleasure, that make you look up from their page for a while to arrest and savour their sensation.” (*The Australian*)

“Along with a Tolstoyan ability to describe the horrors of battle, this amazing book also has an extraordinary intimacy, especially in the relationship between the sisters...**an altogether towering achievement**.” (A.N. Wilson)

“Now, at last and triumphantly, there is a full-scale Keneally novel of the Great War...All of it is **handled by Keneally with calm mastery**. If epic is no longer a literary category that fits this world, *The Daughters of Mars* nonetheless has a tragic and humane span that few recent novels have attempted, let alone equalled.” (*Canberra Times*)

“Expansive and brilliant... **a masterpiece that is sure to rank among Keneally’s best works**. “ (*Bookpage*)

"Greatly detailed... **boasts authentic characters set in equally authentic locations**." (*Booklist*)

“**Like the warriors of Homer’s Iliad**, Keneally gives readers a sense of the vast and continuous casualties dealt by war and reminds us that each soldier was once a boy armed with little more than a pitchfork.” (*The Missourian*)

"**Keneally has summoned all of his ample talent** to write a sweeping novel of World War I." (*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*)

“By Page 6, readers can put up their feet and relax. They know they're in **the reassuring hands of a master storyteller**, and a fascinating read lies ahead. “ (*San Jose Mercury News*)

"A **bravura** piece of writing." (*Seattle Times*)

#### About the Author

Thomas Keneally began his writing career in 1964 and has published thirty-three novels since, most recently *Napoleon’s Last Island*, *Shame and the Captives*, and the *New York Times* bestselling *The Daughters of Mars*. His novels include *Schindler’s List*, which won the Booker Prize in 1982, *The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith*, *Gossip from the Forest*, and *Confederates*, all of which were shortlisted for the Booker Prize. He has also written several works of nonfiction, including his boyhood memoir *Homebush Boy*, *The Commonwealth of Thieves*, and *Searching for Schindler*. He is married with two daughters and lives in Sydney, Australia.

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

#### Hattie Leclair:

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have more or little spare time? Sure, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book titled *The Daughters of Mars: A Novel*? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You recognize beside you can spend your time with your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have various other opinion?

**Robert Ryan:**

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**Johnny Sutton:**

People live in this new day time of lifestyle always try and and must have the extra time or they will get lots of stress from both daily life and work. So , whenever we ask do people have spare time, we will say absolutely sure. People is human not a robot. Then we question again, what kind of activity are you experiencing when the spare time coming to you of course your answer may unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative inside spending your spare time, often the book you have read is actually The Daughters of Mars: A Novel.

**Virginia Berry:**

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